

troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes." The word which is here twice rendered "because" is exactly the same as that which is translated "for" at the beginning of verse 17, and there is no reason for a break between these two verses. Verse 17 continues the statement of the reasons why there is to come a time when the ones who bless in the earth will do it only in the name of the God of truth.

Thus the passage begins with a reference to the fact that worship of God is to become universal in the earth. No longer will great portions of the world be characterized by worship of false gods and denial of the Creator. All are to recognize Him. False religions are to be brought to an end and the religion of the God of truth is to be the sole religion of the earth.

The phrase which is translated "the God of truth" might better be rendered "the God of Amen." The Hebrew word used here, while similar to the word for "truth," is actually "amen," a word which is used to declare the certainty of that which God has promised. We may compare Revelation 3:14: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."

Verse 16b and 17 bring out clearly the remarkable change which is to occur in the condition of God's people. The former troubles are to be completely forgotten. The physical creation is to be altered. Whatever has caused misery in the past will not even come to mind.

As we read verses 16-25 we cannot but be struck with the remarkable similarity of verse 25 to Isaiah 11:6-9. Most of the phrases of verse 25 are taken bodily from chapter 11. The last part of the verse is a direct quotation of the first part of 11:9. The last part of 11:9 has a striking parallel in verse 16 of our present chapter, which tells us, with different words, that the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Thus it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the time predicted in our present passage is precisely that which has been described in 11:6-9.